

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. New claims 11 and 12 are supported at least by page 3, line 19, to page 4, line 20, of the as-filed application.

The applicant and applicant's representative sincerely appreciate the Examiner's willingness to discuss the application during the interview of May 2. An Examiner Interview Summary has been entered in the file, which accurately summarizes the interview.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further define the invention. More specifically, amended claim 1 recites that at least two adjacent ribs are homogeneous, as suggested by the Examiner at the interview.

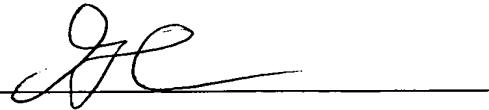
The invention of amended claim 1 is clearly not disclosed or suggested by Broyles because in Broyles, each rib consists of both a substrate 10 and a strip 18, which are made of different materials and then glued or fixed to one another. Please see, for example, the first full paragraph of column 4 of Broyles.

It is thus respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 1, and associated dependent claims, are clearly not disclosed or suggested by the prior art for at least this reason.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if the undersigned can do anything to expedite examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Date: May 5, 2006

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371

SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OR IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.